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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
47th session
Item 12 of the Agenda

SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR

The undersigned NGOs with consultative status with ECOSOC, have taken notice of the note prepared by the United Nations Secretariat on the situation in East Timor (E/CN.4/1991/37) following the resolution adopted on 30 August 1990 by the Sub-Commission on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities (resolution 1990/15). Furthermore, they understand the message presented by the delegation of Pax Romana on item 9 of the present session, as well as the evidence presented on item 10 by the representative of MRAP.

The NGOs are concerned by the worsening human rights situation in East Timor. In addition to several hundreds disappearances and summary executions reported since the beginning of the Indonesian occupation in December 1975, the note from the Secretariat (1991/37) throws light on to the numerous murders committed since August 1990 and a systematic discription of the torture committed by the Indonesian forces of occupation. It deals particularly with young persons (from 13 to 18) who have been victims of such abuses.

The undersigned NGOs appeal to the Commission on Human Rights to take into account these grave violations of human rights witnessed in Timor, and to put pressure on the Indonesian authorities to cease these violations and to open the territory to humanitarian organisations and enquiry missions.

We have all deplored the occupation of Kuweit by Iraq. Would it not be opportune to remember that the United Nations strongly condemned similar occupations as in the cases of Cyprus and Timor? In the case of East Timor, resolution 384 of the Security Council adopted in December 1975 demanded the immediate retreat of Indonesian forces from the territory. Unfortunately, this resolution has become a dead letter, which in turn has led to the grave violations which we now condemn.

The following NGOs in Consultative Status have signed the attached Joint Statement on the SSituation in East Timor

1. American Association of Jurists
2. International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples
3. Human Rights Advocates
4. International Abolitionist Federation
5. International Federation - Terres des Hommes
6. Pax Romana
7. International Commission of Jurists
8. Liberation
9. World Federation of Trade Unions
10. Pax Christi International
11. International Federation of Christians for the Abolition of Torture
12. International Educational Development
13. Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees (FEDEFAM)
14. International Organisation for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
15. International Indian Treaty Council
16. International Federation for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious Liguistic and Other Minorities
17. Disabled People's International
18. Centre Europe - Tiers Monde
19. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
20. International League for Human Rights
21. International Union of Students
22. International Federation for the Rights of Man
23. International Peace Bureau
24. Service for Peace and Justice in Latin America
25. International Alert
26. Movement against Racism and for Friendship among People